Funds for welfare activities

4227. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for welfare activities of different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the allotment made to different coal mines and organisations by the subsidiaries during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cess on Cotton Fabrics

4228. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose cess on all fabrics of cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Printing Ink Factory

4229. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHOLT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is Printing Ink Factory in 'Bhartiya Bank Note Press' (Currency Printing Press), Dewas;

(b) if so, the production capacity of the said factory;

(c) whether the printing ink is being supplied by the said factory to Bank Note Presses located at Nasik and Hyderabad;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the ink is being imported for use by Bank Note Press, Dewas at present; and

(f) if so, the details of countries from which the said ink is being imported and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual production capacity of the Ink Factory in Bank Note Press, Dewas, is approximately 325 Metric Tonnes.

(c) The above Ink Factory supplies security inks to Bank Note Press-Dewas, Currency Note Press-Nasik, India Security Presses Nasik and Security Printing Press, Hyderabad.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The above Ink Factory does not have the technology to manufacture the Quick Set Intaglio Inks which are also required for printing the rates. At present, the requirement of Quick Set Intaglio Inks is met by import on the basis of global tender procedure. The Bank Note Press, Dewas, had imported such inks in the post from United Kingdom as well as Switzerland and Canada.

[English]

Repayment of Debt

4230. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Sudan have defaulted in the repayment of debts owned by them to Government of India;

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made to realise these debts;

(c) whether in view of economic liberalisation in these countries, the Government propose to invest these blocked funds in private ventures in these countries; and

(d) if so, the details of effort being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya have defaulted in repayments of dues owned by them to Govt of India against various Govt. to Govt. credits. Sudan does not owe any dues against Govt. to Govt. credit.

(b) to (d). The debt owed by uganda was crystallized in US Dollars in 1992 and repayments are being received albeit with some delays. Tanzania and kenya have also been approached through diplomatic channels with a view to realization of over-dues. Proposals for use of these funds, through an ESCROW account mechanism, to set them off against investments in or exports from the debtor country, can be considered in that framework.

Development of Plantation Items

4231. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of production, distribution (for domestic consumption and export) and development of plantation of tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : A Statement is enclosed.